Claims 1, 4, 9, 14, 16, 20, and 30 have been amended and Claims 2, 26-29,

and 31 have been cancelled. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, claims 1,

3-25, 30, and 32-33 remain pending in the application.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the first sheet contains

different figures unrelated to the previous figures, and because of informalities in

other of the figures. The Applicants assert that there was no need to change the first

sheet of drawings, including Figures 1, 2, and 3, and that the Examiner has correctly

refused to enter the changed first sheet. Only the second sheet, including Figures 4.

5, and 10, requires correction. The Applicants have included a replacement sheet

including amended Figures 4, 5, and 10, as well as an annotated sheet illustrating

the amendments that were made. The Applicants respectfully request that the

Examiner enter the corrected sheet of drawings, and withdraw these objections to

the drawings.

The amendments that were made to the drawings necessitated minor

changes to the specification. An amendment to the specification is shown above.

No new matter was added in amending the specification.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 16, and 30 have been objected to by the Examiner for informalities.

Accordingly, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 16, and 30 according to the

-10-

Appl. No.: 10/017,924

Attorney Docket No. 10541-775

Reply to Final Office Action of October 16, 2003

Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the

Examiner reconsider and withdraw these objections to the claims.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9-18, 20-23, 25, and 30-33 under 35

U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. RE34612 to Walter Bender

et al. ("Bender").

A telephone interview was conducted between David W. Okey and Examiner

Ernesto Garcia on January 22, 2004, during which, the Bender reference was

discussed. During the interview, the Examiner explained that Bender showed a twist

between two straight portions in Figure 4. Mr. Okey understood this observation.

Mr. Okey then argued that Bender did not include the limitation of a portion of the

twist from about 10 minutes to about 1 degree. The Examiner explained that the

term "about" allowed flexibility thus to include angles greater than 1 degree. The

Examiner suggested that the claims be amended to remove the term "about" as

Bender shows a twist of 90 degrees.

Accordingly, the Applicants have amended claims 9, 14, 20, and 30 such that

the twist is from 0° 10' to 1°, as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicants assert

that Bender does not include a twist "from 0° 10' to 1°" and therefore assert that

claims 9, 14, 20, and 30 are allowable over Bender. Further, Applicants assert that

claims 10-13, 15-19, 21-25, and 32-33 are allowable as depending, either directly or

indirectly, from allowable independent claims 9, 14, 20, and 30 respectively.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and

withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

-11-

Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a) - Part One

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over German patent 3,511,813 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,533,235 to

Anthony Dymerski et al. ("Dymerski"). The rejection states that the German patent

discloses all the limitations of Claim 1 except for the at least one concave or convex

surface. The rejection also states that Dymerski discloses the concave or convex

surface, citing polygonal length 200 in Dymerski.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependant claim 2.

Claim 1 has further been amended such that the twist is "from 0° 10' to 1°". The

Applicants assert that the German patent and Dymerski do not disclose or describe

this limitation of amended Claim 1. The term "about" has been removed from the

language of claim 2 such that the range of twist is from 0° 10' to 1°. The Applicants

assert that the German patent and Dymerski do not disclose a twist that is limited as

such, and therefore, that claim 1 as amended is patentable over the German patent

and Dymerski. The Applicants further assert that claims 3 and 5-8 are patentable as

depending, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1. Accordingly, the

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these

rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a) - Part Two

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4, 19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. RE34612 to Walter Bender et al.

("Bender") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,533,235 to Anthony Dymerski et al.

-12-

Appl. No.: 10/017,924

Attorney Docket No. 10541-775

Reply to Final Office Action of October 16, 2003

("Dymerski"). The rejection states that Bender discloses all of the elements of the

inventions claimed in Claims 1, 4, 19 and 24, except for having at least one concave

or convex surface, and that Dymerski discloses a concave surface.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependant claim 2.

Claim 1 has further been amended such that the twist is "from 0° 10' to 1°". The

Applicants assert that Bender and Dymerski do not disclose or describe this

limitation of amended Claim 1. The term "about" has been removed from the

language of claim 2 such that the range of twist is from 0° 10' to 1°. The Applicants

assert that Bender and Dymerski do not disclose a twist that is limited as such, and

therefore, that claim 1 as amended is patentable over the German patent and

Dymerski. The Applicants further assert that claim 4 is patentable as depending,

either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1.

In light of the arguments made above, the Applicants assert that independent

claims 14 and 20 are allowable. Therefore, the Applicants assert that dependant

claims 19 and 24 are allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, from

allowable independent claims 14 and 20 respectively.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider

and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

-13-

Appl. No.: 10/017,924

Attorney Docket No. 10541-775

Reply to Final Office Action of October 16, 2003

Conclusion

The Applicants assert that pending Claims 1, 3-25, 30, and 32-33 as amended are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2-17-2009

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